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Message Text

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61
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SUBJECT: WEEKEND PRESS HIGHLIGHTS, AUGUST 17-18

REF: ATHENS-5790

1. SUMMARY. WEEKEND PRESS GAVE PRIORITY TREATMENT TO ANTI-AMERICAN "FEVER" THROUGHOUT COUNTRY, LATEST MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO CARAMANLIS, AND STATUS OF AMERICAN BASES. DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHESINGER'S STATEMENT IS CARRIED PROMINENTLY IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS ALONG WITH REPORTS ON WASHINGTON DEMONSTRATION SUPPORTING GREECE AND CYPRUS END SUMMARY

2. TA NEA AND VRADYNI AUGUST 17 RAN SIMILAR HEADLINES "NO TO FORD, NO TO KISSINGER, NO TO ECEVIT - SUBMISSION EXCLUDED." VRADYNI IN SUBHEAD STRESSED "ANTI-AMERICAN FEVER THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY." APOYEVMATINI REPORTED "DIALOGUE BETWEEN GREECE AND TITO BEGUN - GREECE IS HARDENING ITS STAND TOWARD NATO AND U.S." (REFERENCE TO MINIC'S VISIT REPORTED SEPTEL). PAPERS FOLLOWING DAY PLAYED UP SAME THEMES - "GREECE WILL MAKE OPENING TO THIRD WORLD" (ELEFTHEROS COSMOS)
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AND "BY HIS MESSAGE TO CARAMANLIS, KISSINGER TRIES TO JUSTIFY

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WASHINGTON'S PROTURKIS POLICY" (TO VIMA) ALL NEWSPAPERS TREAT PROMINENTLY GOG ECONOMIC MEASURES ANNOUNCED AUGUST 17 (SEPTEL) ATHINAIKI LAUNCHED REPORTING ON STATUS OF U.S. BASES WITH CAPTION "ZIGDIS SUGGESTS ABOLITION OF U.S. BASES".
BASES QUESTION CONTINUED AUGUST 19 WITH TA NEA HEADLINE "FLIGHTS HAVE BEEN PROHIBITED" AND ATHINAIKI "AMERICAN BASES SET LOOSE." VRADYNI AUGUST 19 TURNED FOCUS TO SCHLESINGER'S REMARKS UNDER CAPTION "SHIFT OF U.S. - IF HE IS NOT ACTING LIKE KISSINGER," WITH SUBHEAD "AMERICA WORRIED ABOUT ITS BASES."

3. ALL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED CONTINUING DISPLAY OF ANTI-AMERICANISM WITH FEATURE TREATMENT GIVEN TO SUNDAY'S DEMONSTRATIONS IN ATHENS AS WELL AS IN IRAKLION AND TWO PROVINCIAL CITIES OF CRETE. ATHINAIKI REPORTED RECOMMENDATION BY FREE GREEKS (RIGHTIST RESISTANCE ORGANIZATION) TO TAXI DRIVERS NOT TO TRANSPORT AMERICANS. PRESS ALSO REPORTED EX-MAYOR OF ATHENS PLYTAS' CONCERN THAT JUNTA-APPOINTED MAYORS ARE STILL ACTIVE AND THAT PLYTAS COMPILING LIST OF EX-MAHYORS FROM PRE-1967 ERA AVAILABLE FOR MUNICIPAL SERVICE POSITIONS AGAIN

4. IN SECONDARY STORIES PRESS SPECULATED THAT GOG/LOCKHEED AGREEMENT MIGHT NOT BE CONCLUDED AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS UNDER WAY FOR GREEK/SOVIET DEFENSE PACT (GOG DENIAL REPORTED SEPTEL). TO VIMA RERAN INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE PROFILE OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KUBISCH WITH HEADLINE "KUBISCH BELONGS TO KISSINGER'S CLOSE ENTOURAGE." VRADYNI ADDED "IS KUBISCH KISSINGER MAN: AMERICA HAS ENTIRELY LOST FRIENDSHIP OF GREEKS." SISTER NEWSPAPER TA NEA NOTED THAT GREEK PROFESSIONALS AND SCIENTISTS WILL TURN IN THEIR GRADUATE DEGREES TO U.S. EMBASSY AS PROTEST. PRESS ALSO CARRIED APPEAL TO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND PERSONALITIES TO SAVE CYPRUS SPONSORED BY MIKIS THEODORAKIS.
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